

A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Bedford, Virginia, was held in the Council Hall of the Municipal Building at 7:30 p.m., March 8, 1994.

Members present: Mayor G. Michael Shelton; Councilman Larry D. Brookshier; Councilwoman Joanne A. Grahame; Councilman Payton M. Otey; Councilman Ronnie C. Rice; and Councilman W. D. Tharp (left the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Members absent: Vice Mayor James A. Vest.

Staff present: City Manager Jack A. Gross; City Attorney W. W. Berry, IV; and Clerk of the Council Teresa W. Hatcher.

Mayor Shelton opened the meeting and led all present in saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Shelton declared that the minutes of a called Council meeting held on February 22, 1994; a regular Council meeting held on February 22, 1994; an adjourned Council meeting held on February 26, 1994; and an adjourned Council meeting held on February 27, 1994, were approved as distributed and as corrected.

City Manager Gross reported that Chief of Police Milton Graham has been elected as President of the Blue Ridge Chief's Association.

Councilman Rice thanked the Public Works Department for correcting the street sign at the intersection of Independence Boulevard and Shady Knoll Avenue.

Mayor Shelton stated that Governor George Allen will present to the City and County the award for the joint Industrial Certification Program on March 16.

On motion by Councilman Tharp, seconded by Councilman Rice, voted upon and carried, the following changes to the agenda were made:

"Resolution on Consolidation" was moved to the first item under New Business;

"Presentation - Block Scheduling at Liberty High School - City School Board Chairman Bill Ludwig" was added.

The Clerk of Council read aloud the following proposed resolution:

A RESOLUTION RESPONDING TO THE CONSOLIDATION PETITION

AND DIRECTING THE STUDY OF OTHER OPTIONS

FOR GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES TO CITY RESIDENTS

WHEREAS, 564 citizens have signed a petition under Section 15.1-1132 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, requesting the City Council to effect an agreement consolidating the County and the City into one large city government; and

WHEREAS, if this petition meets all of the requirements specified in the Code of Virginia, the City is given one year to perfect a plan of city consolidation; and

WHEREAS, under any such plan for a consolidated city government approximately two million dollars in sales tax revenues and utility revenues which fund existing services to the residents of the City of Bedford will be diverted to the new city treasury to be used at the discretion of the new city government to fund needed services throughout the entire consolidated area; and

WHEREAS, the City Council which presently makes decisions on expenditures and policies for the City of Bedford would be abolished and replaced by a new governing body elected by and representing the entire combined population of the present City and County, of which the present City citizens will form less than twelve percent of the total population; and

WHEREAS, the loss of control of approximately two million dollars in local revenue which presently accrues to the sole benefit of residents of the City of Bedford would ultimately result in the necessity to reduce services or increase taxes within a special assessment district, and the duly elected Council of the City of Bedford sees no benefit for its citizens in such a plan; and

WHEREAS, the Bedford City Council realizes that preparation of such a study will require significant expenditures; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has an obligation and a desire to see that the provision of cost-effective services to its citizens must constantly be reviewed,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The City of Bedford's City/County Relations Committee and the City's Finance Committee will review any plans presented which purport to offer net financial benefits to the citizens of the City of Bedford. If no plan of city consolidation which is beneficial to City of Bedford residents is found, then the committee is directed to develop a plan for consolidation into a consolidated city which is the least detrimental to the taxpayers and residents of the present city.

2. In addition, this Committee is directed to determine the advantages and disadvantages of other options for providing cost-effective governmental services to the residents of the present city, including but not limited to creation of a tier city as defined by the Code of Virginia, reversion to town status and provision or consolidation of additional services through joint contracts with Bedford County if shown to be cost effective.

Councilman Rice moved that the resolution be adopted. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Grahame.

Councilman Rice asked that copies of this resolution be given to the Bedford County Board of Supervisors tomorrow. The City Manager stated that copies will be delivered.

The motion was then voted upon and carried by the following roll call vote:

Councilman Brookshier	aye
Councilwoman Grahame	aye
Councilman Otey	aye
Councilman Rice	aye
Councilman Tharp	aye
Vice Mayor Vest	absent
Mayor Shelton	aye

Mr. Jeff Taylor, Program Manager of Region 2000, gave a presentation on Region 2000. Mr. Taylor stated that the organization's mission is to promote economic development in a 2,000 square mile area comprised of the Counties of Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford and Campbell, the Cities of Lynchburg and Bedford, and the Town of Altavista. Mr. Taylor indicated that the organization's goals are as follows:

- To building and maintain a broad base of community support for economic development.
- To continue to make local businesses feel "at home" and foster an atmosphere for retention and growth of existing businesses.
- To market the advantages of Region 2000 to potential new businesses and assist them in relocating to Region 2000.
- To encourage each jurisdiction in Region 2000 to have complete sites with roads, water and sewer for location of new firms and expansion of existing businesses.

Councilman Tharp left the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Ms. Renee Fisher, Executive Director of the Sheltered Workshop of Bedford, Inc., requested that Council include funding of \$5,429 in the proposed 1994-95 budget for the Workshop.

Mr. Harry Schickling, President of the Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce, made a presentation requesting

Council to include \$5,000 in the proposed 1994-95 budget for the Chamber.

Ms. Barbara Ring, representing the Bedford Area Tourism Development Committee, requested that Council include \$15,300 in the proposed 1994-95 budget for tourism promotion of the Bedford area.

Ms. Elizabeth Berry-Mosley, Executive Director of Bedford Main Street, Inc., reviewed activities of the Main Street organization, which included promotional activities such as special events and retail promotions.

Mr. Bill Ludwig, Chairman of the Bedford City School Board, stated that the School Board voted in favor of the proposed block scheduling program at Liberty High School. Mr. Ludwig stated that the County School Board will be voting on this proposed program on March 10 and asked for Council's support.

Councilman Brookshier moved that Council support the City School Board's position on the block scheduling-semester system program as proposed for Liberty High School. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rice, voted upon and carried, four members voting aye, one member voting nay (Grahame), and two members absent.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the scheduling of graduation ceremonies for Liberty High School.

City Manager Gross stated that Section 58.1-3370 of the Code of Virginia provides for the appointment of a board of equalization to be composed of not less than three nor more than five members in each tax year immediately following the year a general reassessment is conducted. Mr. Gross indicated that a notice has been published in the local newspaper advertising the appointment of this board and asking that citizens wishing to serve contact the City Manager's Office.

The City Manager recommended that Council fix the compensation for members of the Board of Equalization at \$60 per day or portion thereof and limit the compensation to no more than ten days.

Councilman Brookshier moved that Council approve the action as requested. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Grahame, voted upon and carried.

City Manager Gross stated that the City has received a check from the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Health, Division of Emergency Medical Services, in the amount of \$2,071.00. This amount represents the City's portion of the "Two-For-Life" funds. Mr. Gross indicated that these funds need to be appropriated from revenue account No. 011600160902 to the Life Saving Crew expenditure account No. 0303203203056042. The City Manager reported that a copy of the guidelines for the expenditure of the locality's share of state funds has been provided to the Life Saving Crew to ensure that the monies are expended according to those guidelines.

On motion by Councilwoman Grahame, seconded by Councilman Rice, voted upon and carried by a roll call vote, Council approved the appropriation of funds from the referenced revenue account to the Life Saving Crew's referenced expenditure account. Roll call vote follows:

Councilwoman Grahame	aye
Councilman Otey	aye
Councilman Rice	aye
Councilman Tharp	absent
Vice Mayor Vest	absent

Councilman Brookshier aye

Mayor Shelton aye

Chief of Police Milton Graham reported that the projected total cost to the City of damage resulting from the ice storm of February 10-11, 1994, is \$285,075. Chief Graham stated that the estimated cost of damages to private property is \$174,000. Chief Graham indicated that a poll of local businesses and local manufacturing companies was taken, and it is estimated that over one-half million dollars in lost production and business was incurred during that period. The Chief of Police stated that the total estimated cost of the ice storm is \$1,039,075.

Mr. Clarke W. Gibson, Director of Public Works, reported on a revised once-per-week refuse collection plan as follows: the City would be divided into three routes, each route taking one eight hour day to complete; businesses would be collected a second time by creating a one-half day, four hour route; this amounts to a total of three and one-half days or twenty-eight hours of refuse collection at a cost of \$85,615, which is a savings of \$20,830 over the twice-per-week collection plan.

Mr. Gibson indicated that one-per-week collection would result in garbage collection becoming a part-time job. Mr. Gibson stated that the Solid Waste Committee would be meeting in the future to discuss alternative duties for the garbage crews, such as cardboard collection and recycling or other public related duties to cover the remaining twelve hours per week.

After discussion, it was the concurrence of Council to carry this item over to the next regular meeting for consideration by the entire City Council.

Mayor Shelton adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m. until March 11, 1994, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber.